

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
ACDA-12 L-03 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MCE-00 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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TAGS: MASS, PCAT, XT, SX, GW, DA, NL, UK, NO, FR, IT, WW, BE
SUBJECT: INFORMATION NEEDS ON WEST EUROPEAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS
TRANSFERS TO THIRD WORLD

REF: (A) STATE 45364; (B) STATE 257011

1. BASICALLY, DENMARK IS A "RECEIVER" NATION, AS OPPOSED
TO A "SUPPLIER" NATION OF ARMS. TWO FACTORS INFLUENCE
THIS:

A. DENMARK HAS NOT HAD THE INDUSTRIAL OR
TECHNOLOGICAL BASE NEEDED TO PRODUCE ARMS.
B. DENMARK IS CONSTRAINED FROM ARMS TRANSFERS
BY NATIONAL LAWS WHICH PROHIBIT THE SALE OF ARMS TO
"POTENTIALLY WARRING NATIONS."

2. THE BASIC DANISH GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE PRODUCTION
AND TRANSFER OF ARMS STEMS FROM TWO ROYAL DECREES, PRO-
MULGATED IN 1937 AND 1964. ONE STATES THAT
ONLY WHOLLY-OWNED DANISH FIRMS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE
DOMESTIC MANUFACTURE OF ARMS. THE OTHER PROVIDES THAT
NO DANISH-PRODUCED ARMS MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO
BELLIGERENT OR POTENTIALLY WARRING NATIONS. SOME CHANGES
OR A WAY AROUND THESE ARE BEING QUIETLY CONSIDERED
BECAUSE OF THE THIRD COUNTRY SALES POSSIBILITIES IN

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THE F-16 PROGRAM IN WHICH DENMARK IS INVOLVED AS A
COPRODUCER.

3. HISTORICALLY, DENMARK HAS RECEIVED A MAJOR PORTION
OF ITS ARMS THROUGH MAP (MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
GRANT AID) OR FMS (FOREIGN MILITARY SALES) AGREEMENTS
WITH THE UNITED STATES. BOTH FORMS OF AGREEMENT CONTAIN

ARMS TRANSFER CONSTRAINTS WHICH PROHIBIT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT FROM TRANSFERRING THESE ARMS WITHOUT THE EXPRESS APPROVAL OF THE UNITED STATES. GENERALLY SPEAKING, AT THE END OF THE LIFE CYCLE OF US-SUPPLIED ARMS TO DENMARK, THE ARMS ARE EITHER RETURNED TO US CONTROL, DISPOSED OF THROUGH US CHANNELS, OR TRANSFERRED TO THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WITH SPECIFIC RULES GOVERNING FURTHER TRANSFER TO THIRD PARTIES. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY VIOLATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS.

4. AS NOTED ABOVE, DENMARK DOES PARTICIPATE IN THE PRODUCTION OF ARMS ON A LIMITED BASIS, GENERALLY AS PARTS SUBCONTRACTORS TO MAJOR US (OR NATO) WEAPONS PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE F-16, HARPOON, OR SEA SPARROW PROGRAMS. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY CASE WHERE DENMARK IS THE SOLE MANUFACTURER OR SUPPLIER OF WHOLE ARMS IN ANY FORM. DANISH WEAPONS AGREEMENTS GENERALLY CONCERN THE PURCHASE OF ARMS BY DENMARK AS PROPOSED TO PURCHASE FROM DENMARK.

5. FUNDAMENTALLY, THE DANES CONCUR IN AND SUPPORT THE US POLICY ON ARMS TRANSFERS FOR MORAL AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS. THEY HAVE NEITHER THE CAPABILITY, NOR THE DESIRE, TO THEMSELVES PRODUCE OR TRANSFER MAJOR ARMAMENT SYSTEMS TO THIRD WORLD OR LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

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